THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to continue the scheme on 'Strengthening the Planning Machinery in States' which covers the strengthening of monitoring units in the State Planning Bodies, in the Seventh Plan also.

(b) The guidelines on the scheme for strengthening of the monitoring units in the State planning bodies were sent to the State Governments in August, 1972. The scheme was in operation during the Fifth and Sixth Plans and the Planning Commission propose to continue the scheme during the Seventh Plan also.

(c) There is only one Plan scheme for this purpose, namely 'Strengthening the Planning Machinery in States' referred in (a) above which, inter-alia, covers the monitoring units in the State planning bodies.

Development of Tourism in Meghalaya

316. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the programmes of the Central Government for development of tourist spots in Meghalaya during the year 1985-86;

(b) the number of foreign tourists who visited Meghalaya during the year 1984-85 and from April to June, 1985; and

(c) whether there is any scheme proposed by Government to attract foreign tourists to visit Meghalaya in addition to the efforts being made by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The Department has already sanctioned way-side amenities at Nongpoh. The Umiam Lake Watersports infrastructure scheme and a proposal for a Cafeteria at Cherapunji are also under consideration.

(b) and (c) Statistics of foreign tourists visiting different States are not available. Besides from 1962 restrictions on the entry of foreigners to Meghalaya have been in force and thus there was only minimal number of foreign tourists visiting Meghalaya. As per the Foreign Tourist Survey in 1982-83, 0.2 per cent of the total foreign tourists visiting India, spent at least one night in Meghalaya. As a first step Government threw open Shillong to groups of foreigners in 1984. The newly introduced Vayudoot flight from Calcutta to Shillong is also expected to step up tourism traffic to Shillong|Government is also examining if restrictions on movement of foreigners in Meghalaya can be further relaxed by opening up of more places.

Improvement of Shillong Airport

317. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for the improvement of the Shillong airport suitable for the operation of the Boeing flights of the Indian Airlines;

(b) whether Government are aware that there have been great public demand for Indian Airline flights between Calcutta-Shiling-Dimapur and Mohanbari; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines have not received any demand for operating services between Calcutta, Shillong, Dimapur and Mohanbari, but have received representations to operate a Boeing service on the Calcutta-Shillong-Calcutta sector. This